

in claims 31 and 37. Moreover, a plurality of smaller pins would likely be unsuitable as an ejector pin as described in Inoue '237. Typically, when a plurality of pins are used, their movement into or out of the mold cavity forms an angle with the curvature of pin opening in which the pins move. Thus, using a plurality of pins to impact the molded ball would impart non-axial forces on the pins that could easily cause the pins to be permanently bent out of position. Thus, a skilled artisan would not be independently motivated to modify the embodiment of Figure 6 of Inoue '237 to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

With respect to the Examiner's reliance on Puniello '881, Applicants respectfully submit that Figures 6-9c and the discussion at col. 7, lines 22-47 are directed toward a single sleeve in a mold plate. Thus, for many of the same reasons provided above for Inoue '237, Applicants request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections based on Puniello '881.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the present amendments and remarks still do not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any remaining issues.

A Petition for a 2-month extension of time is submitted herewith, including authorization to charge the appropriate fee. No fee is believed due for adding claims 37-42 since claims 1-30 have been withdrawn. No other fee is believed to be due at this time. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0015.

Respectfully submitted,
SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP

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By: 

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